

2021 Erie County District Revision Commission Final Evaluation Report January 7, 2022



Commission Members:

Thomas Hutzelman, Chairperson

Freda Tepfer, M.Ed.

Attorney Richard Vendetti

Attorney Chad Vilushis

Attorney Russell Warner

2021 ERIE COUNTY DISTRICT REVISION COMMISSION
REPORT TO ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL

I. Commission Members

Thomas Hutzelman, Chairperson
Freda Tepfer, M.Ed.
Attorney Richard Vendetti
Attorney Chad Vilushis
Attorney Russell Warner

The Members of the Commission were appointed by the Erie County Council by Resolution Number 55 of 2021 on November 16, 2021. See Exhibit A attached hereto.

II. Role of the Commission

Article II, Section 1 D2(a) of the Erie County Home Rule Charter requires the appointment of a District Revision Commission by County Council after the publication of the results of each Decennial Census of the population of the United States, to evaluate the Erie County Council Districts for equity in representation in relation to population. The Commission shall submit its "evaluation report" to the County Council within three (3) months after its appointment.

Under the Home Rule Charter, County Council must hold at least one (1) public hearing on the Commission's evaluation report ("Report") within one (1) month after Council receives the Report. Within one (1) month after the public hearing, County Council by Ordinance must either: adopt the Commission's Report as submitted, or adopt the Report "as it may be amended by County Council."

If County Council fails to adopt such Ordinance for any reason, then the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, upon petition of the County Council or any five (5) citizens of Erie County, shall evaluate the County Council Districts for equity and representation in relationship to population, and the Court shall establish the boundaries of such County Council Districts.

III. Meetings of the Commission

The Commission met officially in public session at the Erie County Courthouse on the following dates: November 19, 2021; December 3, 2021; December 9, 2021; December 17, 2021; and January 7, 2022. The Commission approved and adopted this Final Evaluation Report at its meeting held on January 7, 2022.

IV. Background and U.S. Census Information

At present, there are seven (7) Erie County Council Districts, with boundaries and composition as set forth in Exhibits B and C attached hereto. According to the official U.S. Census data, Erie County's population dropped from 280,688 in the year 2000 to 280,554 in the year 2010, a very minor change in total population. However, in the next decade, Erie County's population dropped approximately 10,000 in the aggregate -- from 280,554 people (2010 Census) to 270,876

people (2020 Census). See Exhibit D attached hereto. The average population per Council District in 2020 is 38,697 people (270,876 people divided among 7 Council Districts equals 38,697 per District). See attached Exhibit E. If no changes were made to the current County Council Districts, the variances from that 38,697 average would be as follows:

Council District Number	Population Variance from 38,697	Percentage Variance from 38,697
1	+2,235	+5.46%
2	-1,856	-5.04%
3	+29	+0.08%
4	-980	-2.60%
5	+2,123	+5.20%
6	-2,806	-7.82%
7	+1,252	+3.14%

V. Proceedings of the Commission

The Commission determined that it would have a goal of keeping any deviations from the average population number in each Council District at no more than plus or minus 5%. Over the course of its various meetings, the Commission considered several alternative proposals or plans for potential redistricting, including separate proposals from Mr. Hutzelman, Ms. Tepfer, Attorney Vilushis, and a joint proposal from Attorneys Vendetti and Warner. The proposed plan ultimately adopted and approved by the Commission was initially proposed by Mr. Hutzelman.

The recommended redistricting plan as adopted and approved by the Commission recommends the following five (5) changes to the existing Council District boundaries:

- A. Proposed Change #1. Move Erie City 1-2-8 from District 3 to District 2 (885 people). See attached Exhibit F.
- B. Proposed Change #2. Move Erie City 1-3-2 from District 3 to District 2 (1,022 people). See attached Exhibit G.
- C. Proposed Change #3. Move Wesleyville 18-0-1 from District 5 to District 4 (1,730 people). See attached Exhibit H.
- D. Proposed Change #4. Move Franklin Township 24-0-0 from District 7 to District 6 (1,508 people). See attached Exhibit I.
- E. Proposed Change #5. Move Millcreek 32-0-12 from District 1 to District 3 (2,831 people). See attached Exhibit J.

Under this recommended plan, the variances from the average population in each District, compared to the current variances, would be as follows:

Council District Number	Recommended Plan Population Variances	Current Population Variances	Recommended Plan Percentage Variances	Current Percentage Variances
1	-596	+2,235	-1.56%	+5.46%
2	+51	-1,856	+0.13%	-5.04%
3	+953	+29	+2.40%	+0.08%
4	+750	-980	+1.90%	-2.60%
5	+393	+2,123	+1.01%	+5.20%
6	-1,298	-2,806	-3.47%	-7.82%
7	-256	+1,252	-0.66%	+3.14%

A map showing the recommended redistricting plan's County Council District boundaries is attached as Exhibit K. A list showing the proposed new composition of the recommended redistricting plan's County Council Districts is attached as Exhibit L. Detail maps of each proposed new Council District are included as Exhibits M, N, O, P, Q, R and S attached hereto.

This recommended plan has the following characteristics:

1. The variances from the average population are significantly less than the existing variances under the current Council District boundaries.
2. The variances from the average population are well below the Commission's goal of plus or minus 5%.
3. There are only five (5) total proposed changes, and it is believed that the overall composition of each existing County Council District is not materially changed.
4. It places all of Wesleyville Borough into the same County Council District.

VI. Commission Recommendation

This Report (including its Exhibits) constitutes the 2021 Erie County District Revision Commission's Final Evaluation Report under the Home Rule Charter. The Commission has adopted and approved this Report as of January 7, 2022, and now submits it to the Erie County Council for its consideration and whatever action Council may deem appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

2021 ERIE COUNTY DISTRICT
REVISION COMMISSION

By: Thomas Hutzelman
Thomas Hutzelman
Chairperson

Dated: January 7, 2022
1728963.3

EXHIBITS

Exhibit A	Erie County Council Resolution Number 55 of 2021 appointing Commission Members
Exhibit B	Map of Current County Council District Boundaries
Exhibit C	Composition of Current County Council Districts
Exhibit D	2000 - 2010 - 2020 Census Table
Exhibit E	Current Variances from Average Population Table
Exhibit F	Proposed Change #1 Map
Exhibit G	Proposed Change #2 Map
Exhibit H	Proposed Change #3 Map
Exhibit I	Proposed Change #4 Map
Exhibit J	Proposed Change #5 Map
Exhibit K	Map of Proposed New County Council District Boundaries
Exhibit L	Proposed New Composition of County Council Districts
Exhibit M	Detail Map of Proposed New District 1
Exhibit N	Detail Map of Proposed New District 2
Exhibit O	Detail Map of Proposed New District 3
Exhibit P	Detail Map of Proposed New District 4
Exhibit Q	Detail Map of Proposed New District 5
Exhibit R	Detail Map of Proposed New District 6
Exhibit S	Detail Map of Proposed New District 7

EXHIBIT A
ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
NUMBER 55 OF 2021 APPOINTING
COMMISSION MEMBERS

RESOLUTION NUMBER 55, 2021
Appointing the Erie County District Revision Commission

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1 D2 (a) of the Erie County Home Rule Charter requires the appointment of a District Revision Commission by County Council after the publication of the results of each decennial census of the population of the United States to evaluate Council districts for equity in representation in relation to population ; and

WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau released information for Pennsylvania on August 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the appointees listed herein meet the political diversity requirements of Article II, Section 1 D2 (b); and

WHEREAS, the District Revision Commission shall submit its evaluation report to County Council by January 17, 2021.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by County Council of the County of Erie that the persons listed on the attached Exhibit A are hereby appointed to the 2021 Erie County District Revision Commission.

I Douglas R. Smith, hereby certify that on the motion of Clear

seconded by Rastetter, this resolution was passed on this


16th day of November, 2021 by a vote of 7 to 0.

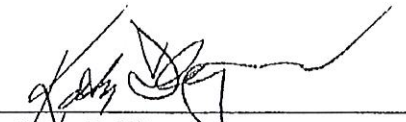
ATTEST:


Douglas R. Smith
County Clerk

Date: 11-16-2021

APPROVED BY:


Carl Anderson, III, Chairman
Erie County Council


Kathy Dahlkemper,
County Executive

Date: 11-16-21

Date: 11/17/21

DISTRICT REVISION COMMISSION MEMBERS

1. Thomas Hutzelman, Chairman – Appointed by Scott Rastetter/Ellen Schauerman
2. Chad Vilushis, Esq. – Appointed by Carl J. Anderson, III
3. Richard Vendetti, Esq. – Appointed by Kim Clear
4. Freda Tepfer – Appointed by André Horton
5. Russell Warner, Esq. – Appointed by Mary Rennie/Brian Shank

Exhibit B - Current County Council District Boundaries



Exhibit C - Composition of Current County Council Districts

DISTRICT 1

Millcreek Township - Districts 2-10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22-24

DISTRICT 2

Erie 1st Ward - Districts 1, 3, 5, 7
2nd Ward - Districts 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9
3rd Ward - Districts 1, 3, 4, 5
4th Ward - Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9
Lawrence Park Township - 1, 2, 3

DISTRICT 3

Erie 2nd Ward - District 8
3rd Ward - Districts 2, 6, & 7
5th Ward - Districts 1, 2, 11, & 20
6th Ward - 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17
Millcreek Township - Districts 11, 18, 19, 20

DISTRICT 4

Erie 2nd Ward - District 5
5th Ward - Districts 3 through 10, 12 through 19, and 21
Wesleyville Borough - 2
Millcreek Township - Districts 1 and 21

DISTRICT 5

North East Borough - 1, 2
Wesleyville Borough - 1
Greene Township - 1, 2
Harborcreek Township - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
North East Township - 1, 2
Summit Township - 1, 2

DISTRICT 6

City of Corry - 1, 2, 3
Edinboro Borough 1, 2
Elgin Borough
Mill Village Borough
Union City Borough
Waterford Borough
Wattsburg Borough
Waterford Township - 1, 2
Wayne Township
Amity Township
Concord Township
Greenfield Township
LeBoeuf Township
Venango Township
Washington Township
Union Township

DISTRICT 7

Albion Borough
Canesville Borough
Girard Borough
Lake City Borough
McKean Borough
Plateau Borough
Springfield Township
Conneaut Township
Elk Creek Township
Fairview Township - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Franklin Township
Girard Township - 1, 2, 3
McKean Township 1, 2

Exhibit D – 2000-2010-2020 Census Table

District	2000 population	2010 population	2020 population
1	39,471	40,684	40,932
2	40,824	40,101	36,841
3	41,866	40,010	38,726
4	39,115	39,967	37,717
5	39,858	41,002	40,820
6	39,922	38,924	35,891
7	<u>39,632</u>	<u>39,866</u>	<u>39,949</u>
Total:	280,688	280,554	270,876

- Erie County population dropped from 280,554 (2010 census) to 270,876 (2020 census)
- 270,876 divided by 7 Council Districts would be 38,697 people in each district if split exactly evenly among all districts.

Exhibit E – Current Variances from Average District Population

If no changes are made to the existing Council Districts, the variances from the average 38,697 population in each District would now be as follows:

District	Population Variance	Percentage Variance
1	+2,235	+5.46%
2	-1,856	-5.04%
3	+29	+0.08%
4	-980	-2.60%
5	+2,123	+5.20%
6	-2,806	-7.82%
7	+1,252	+3.14%

Exhibit F - Proposed Change #1 (885 people): Move Erie City 1-2-8 from District 3 to District 2

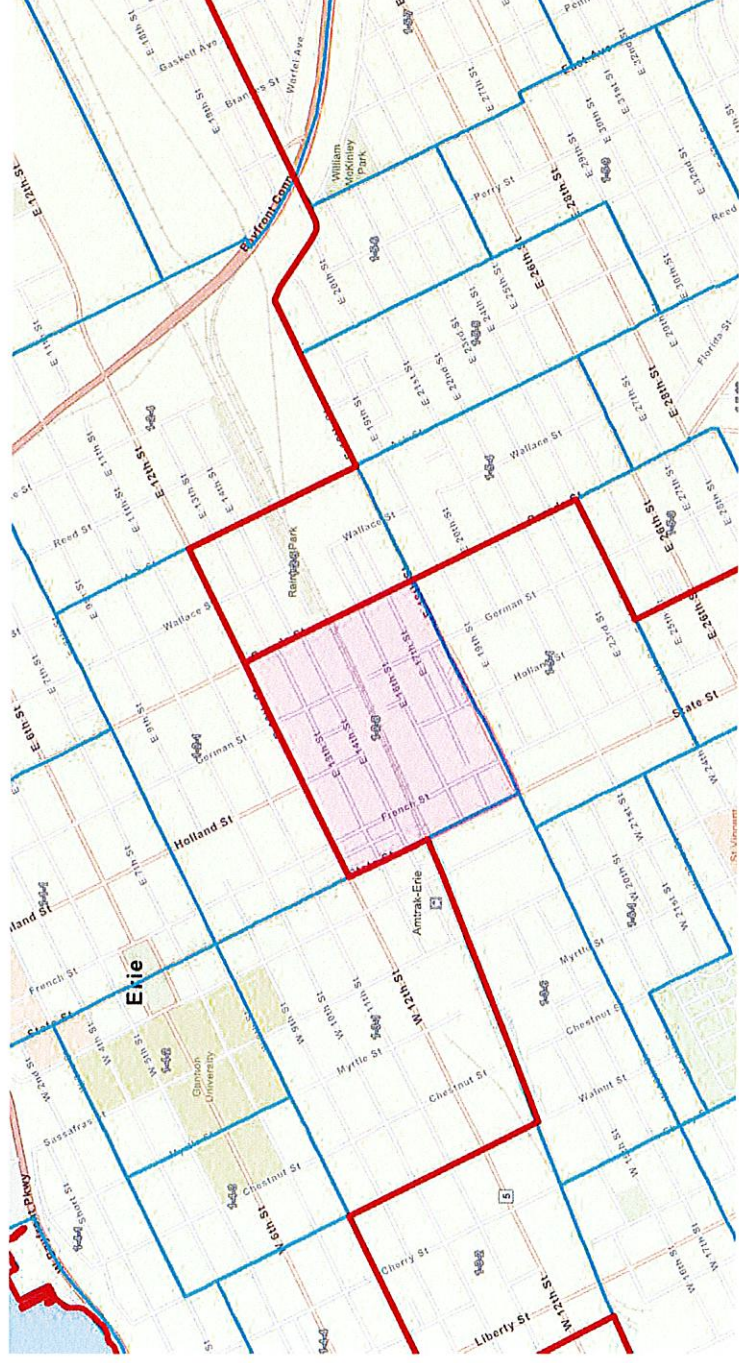


Exhibit G - Proposed Change #2 (1,022 people): Move Erie City 1-3-2 from District 3 to District 2

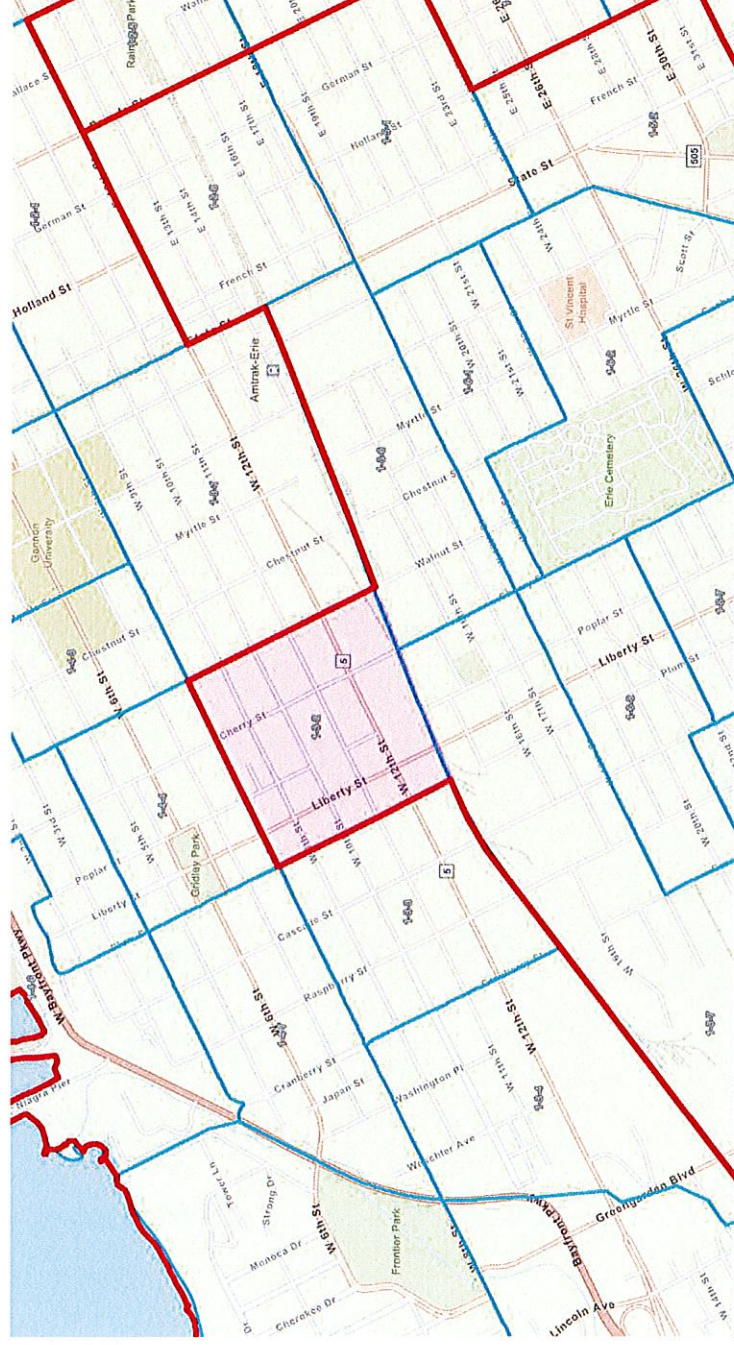


Exhibit H - Proposed Change #3 (1,730 people):
Move Wesleyville 18-0-1 from District 5 to District 4

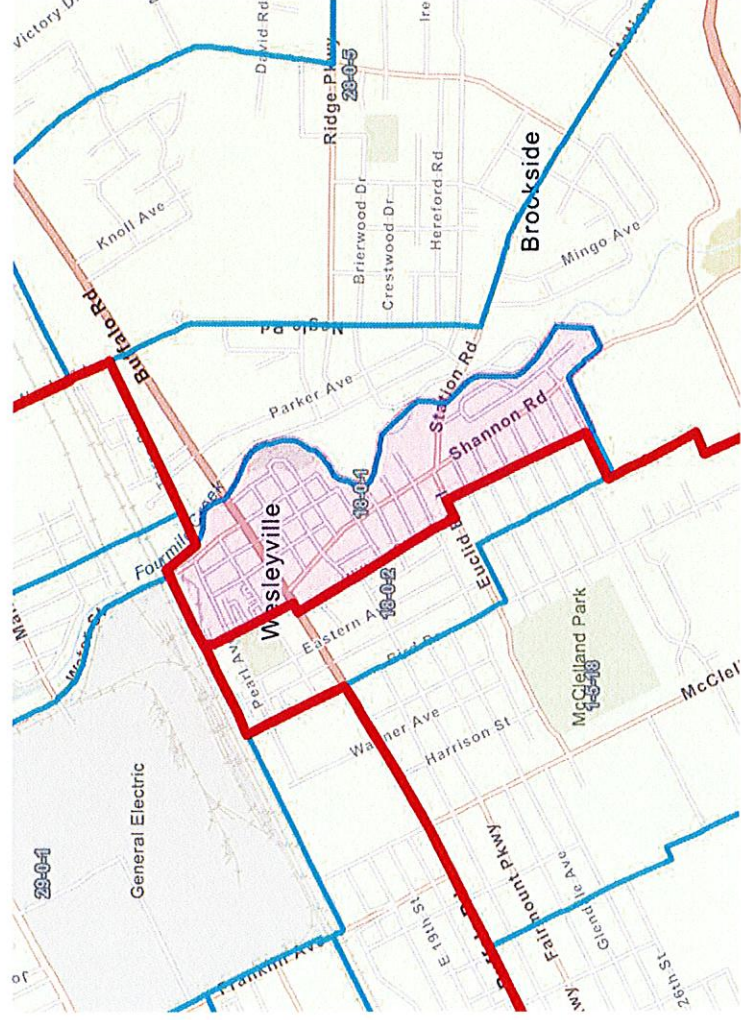
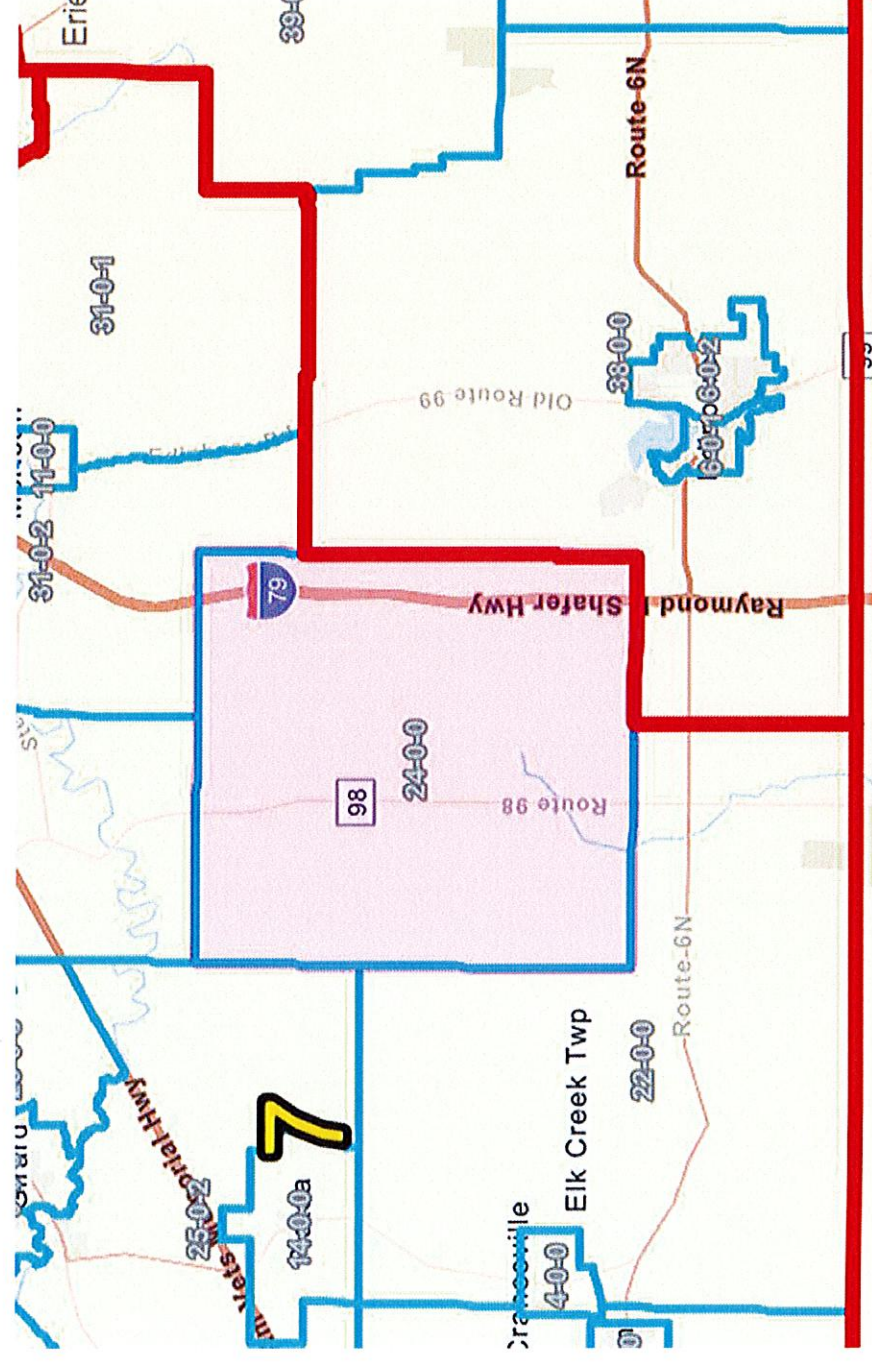


Exhibit I - Proposed Change #4 (1,508 people) Move
Franklin Twp. 24-0-0 from District 7 to District 6



[illegible]

Exhibit K - Proposed New County Council District Boundaries

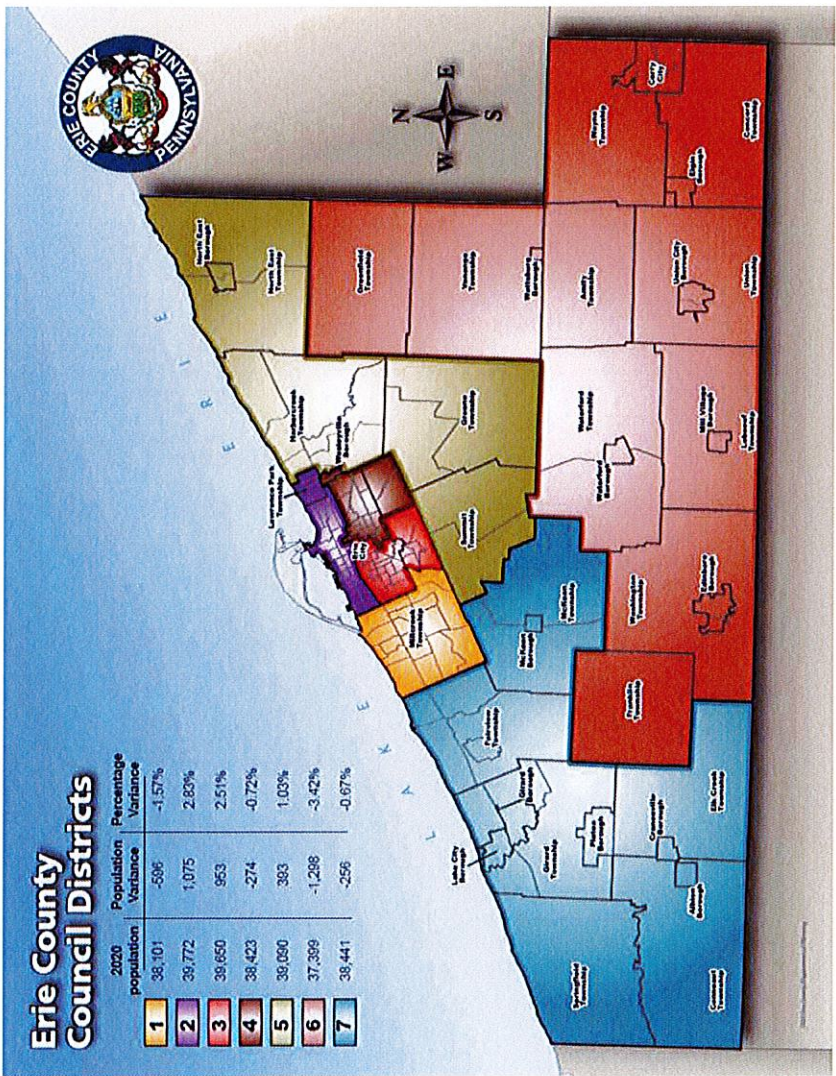


Exhibit L - Proposed New Composition of County Council Districts

DISTRICT 1

Millcreek Township - Districts 2-10, 12 moves to Council District 3,
13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22-24

DISTRICT 2

Erie 1st Ward - Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 8
2nd Ward - Districts 1, 4, 6, 7, 8 (added)
3rd Ward - Districts 1, 2 (added), 3, 4, 5
4th Ward - Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9
Lawrence Park Township - 1, 2, 3

DISTRICT 3

Erie 2nd Ward 8 moves to Council District 2
3rd Ward - Districts 6, & 7 (3-2 moves to Council District 2)
5th Ward - Districts 1, 2, 11, & 20
6th Ward - 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17
Millcreek Township - Districts 11, 12 (added), 18, 19, 20

DISTRICT 4

Erie 2nd Ward - District 5
5th Ward - Districts 3 through 10, 12 through 19, and 21
Wesleyville Borough - 1 (added), 2
Millcreek Township - Districts 1 and 21

DISTRICT 5

North East Borough - 1, 2
Wesleyville Borough - 1 moves to Council District 4
Greene Township - 1, 2
Harbort Creek Township - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
North East Township - 1, 2
Summit Township - 1, 2

DISTRICT 6

City of Corry - 1, 2, 3
Edinboro Borough 1, 2
Elgin Borough
Mill Village Borough
Union City Borough
Waterford Borough
Wattsburg Borough
Waterford Township - 1, 2
Wayne Township
Amity Township
Concord Township
Greenfield Township
LeBoeuf Township
Venango Township
Washington Township
Franklin Township (added)
Union Township

DISTRICT 7

Albion Borough
Cranesville Borough
Grand Borough
Lake City Borough
McKean Borough
Platea Borough
Springfield Township
Comenau Township
Elk Creek Township
Fairview Township - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Franklin Township to Council Dist. 6
Grand Township - 1, 2, 3
McKean Township 1, 2

Exhibit M - Detail Map of Proposed New District 1

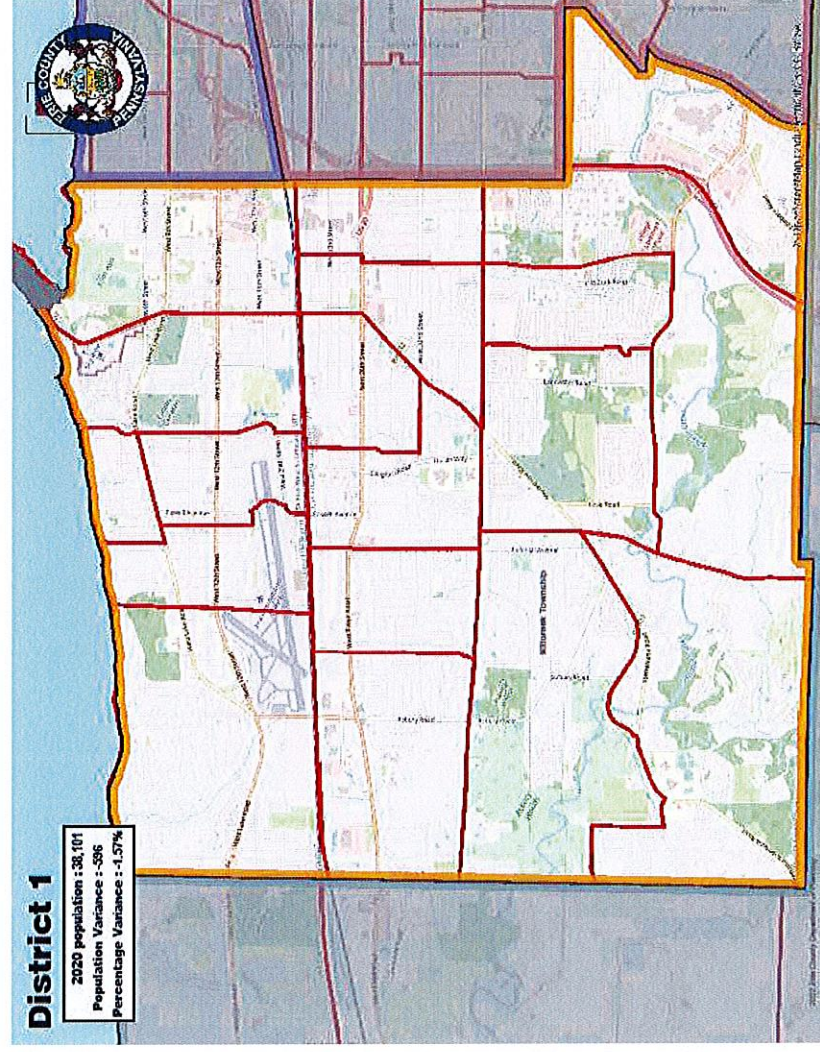


Exhibit N - Detail Map of Proposed New District 2

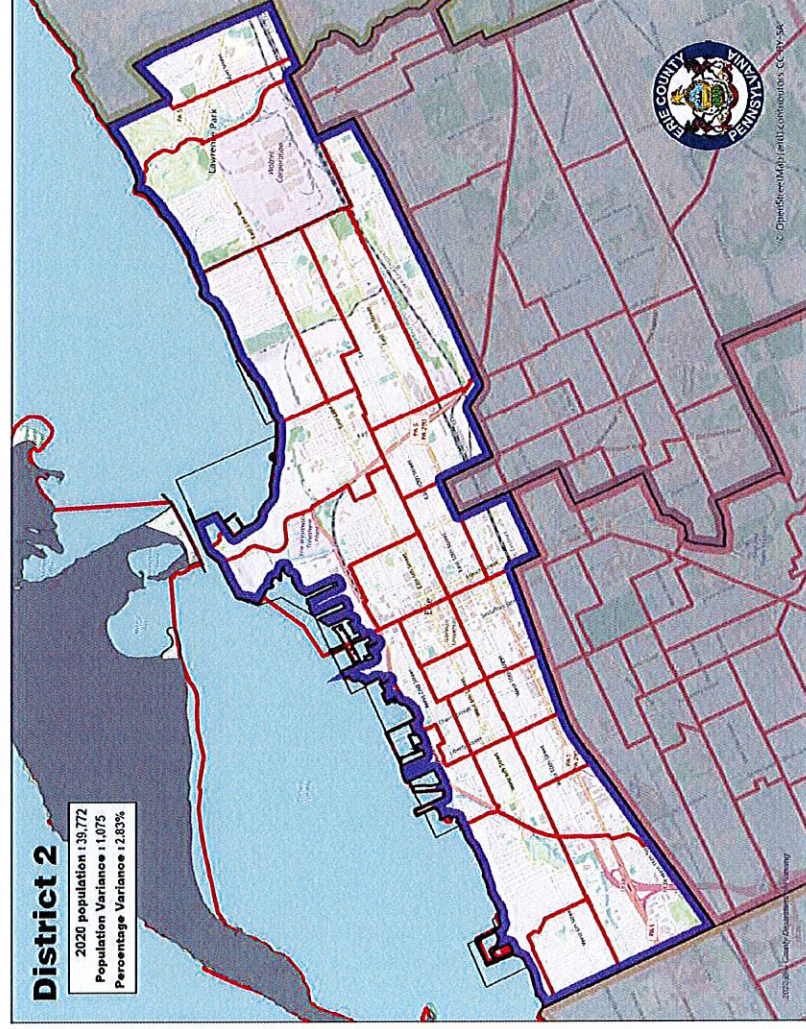


Exhibit P - Detail Map of Proposed New District 4

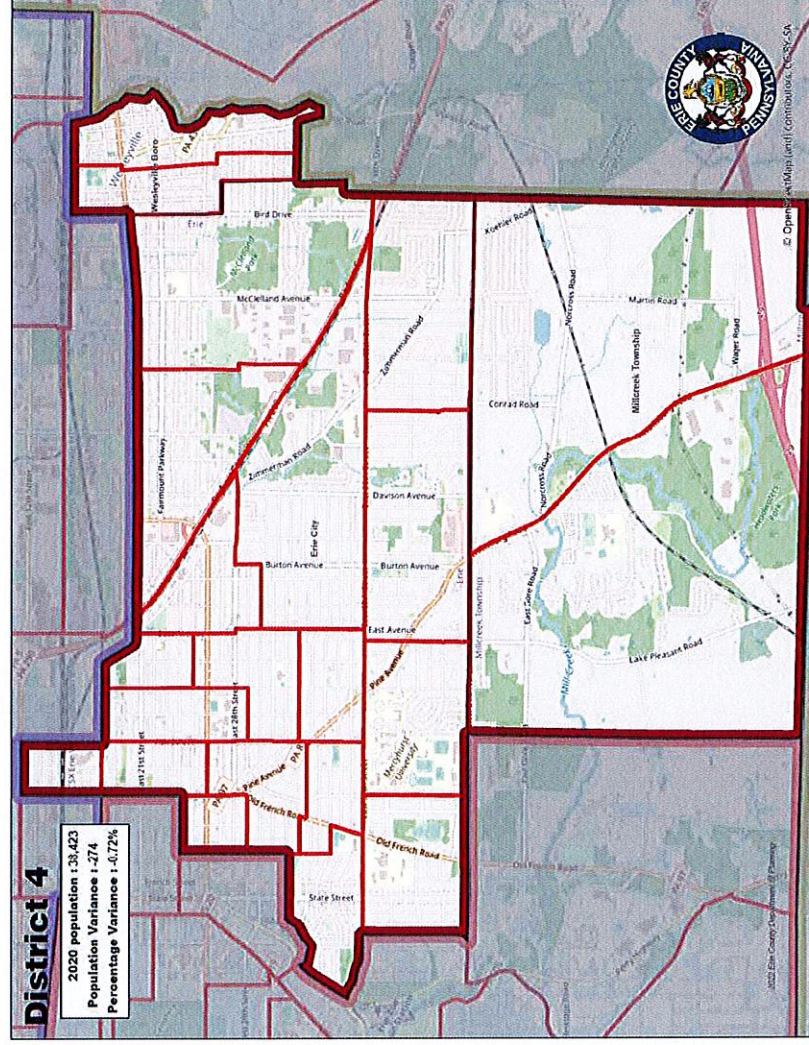


Exhibit Q - Detail Map of Proposed New District 5

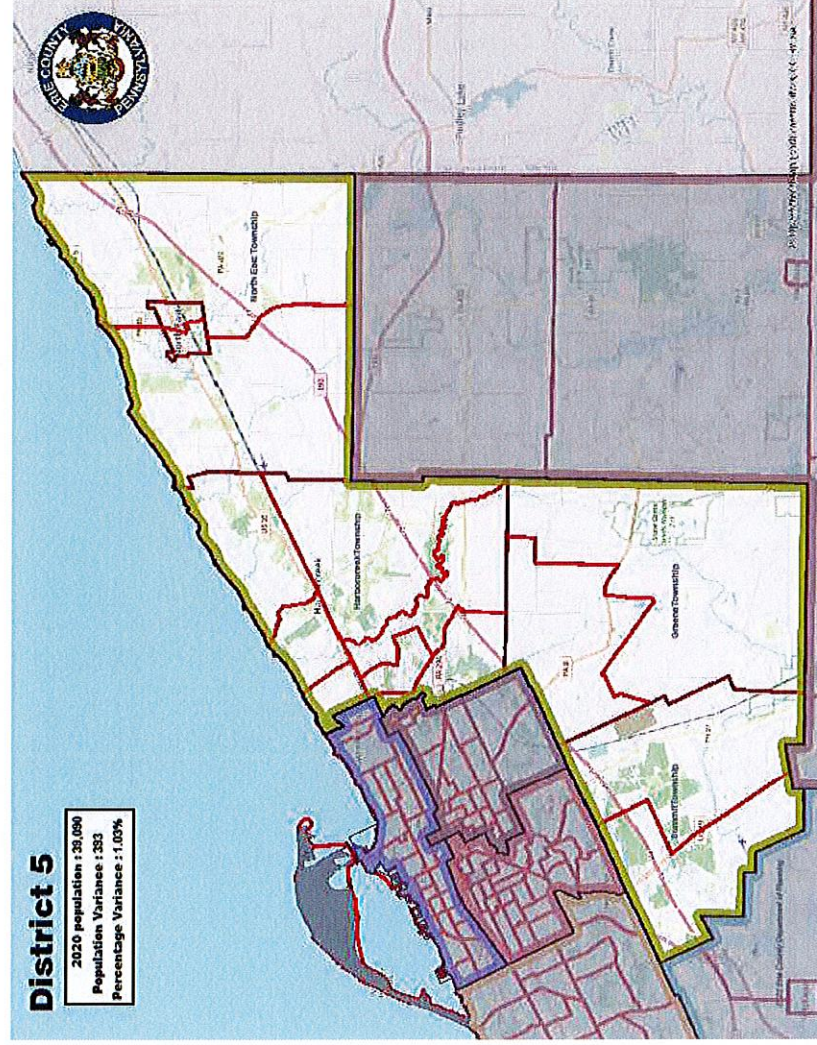


Exhibit R - Detail Map of Proposed New District 6

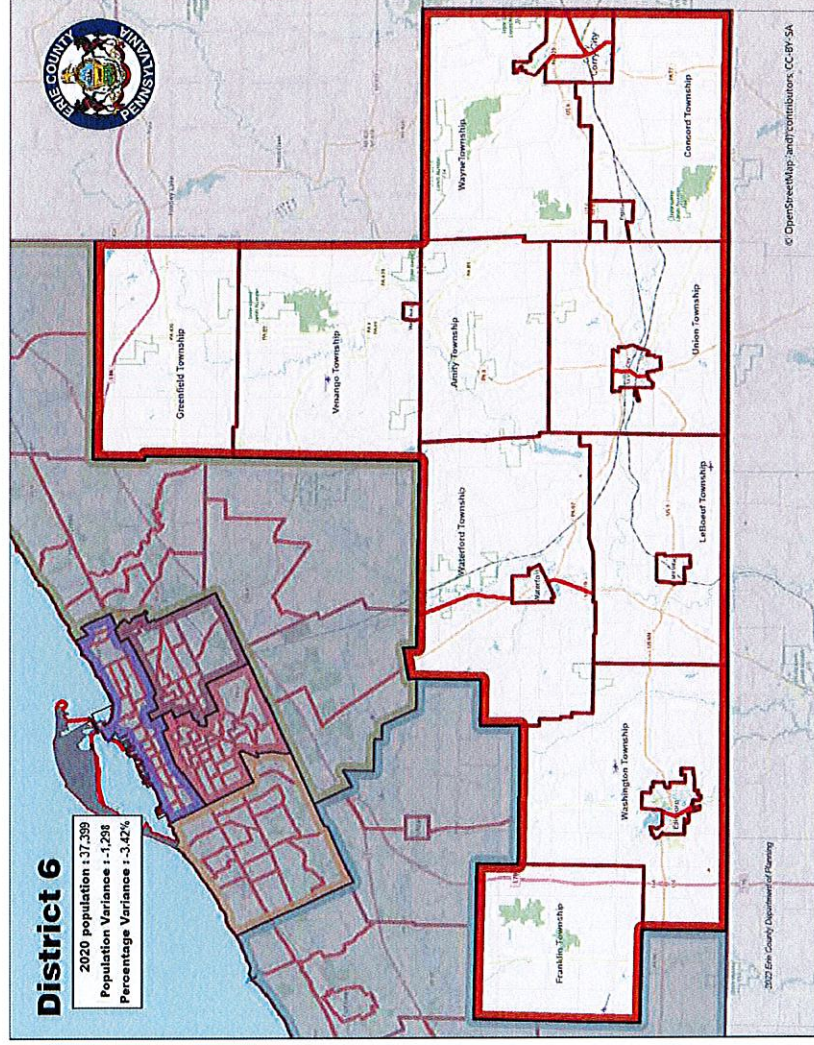


Exhibit S - Detail Map of Proposed New District 7

